



**PRESS STATEMENT ON THE INTERNATIONAL DAY AGAINST HOMOPHOBIA,  
BIPHOBIA, INTERSEXPHOBIA AND TRANSPHOBIA (IDAHOBIT)**

**KAMPALA**

**17<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2022**

Today, Human Rights Awareness and Promotion Forum (HRAPF) joins the rest of world in celebrating the International Day Against Homophobia, Biphobia, Intersexphobia, and Transphobia (IDAHOBIT). This day is commemorated annually on 17<sup>th</sup> May to raise awareness and draw attention to the violence and discrimination faced by people with diverse sexual orientations, gender identities, and or expressions globally. On this day in 1990, the World Health Organisation declassified homosexuality as a mental disorder and the day is now celebrated in over 130 countries. IDAHOBIT reminds us to continuously listen, learn, educate ourselves and act on issues faced by the LGBTI community in their diversity.

The theme of this year's IDAHOBIT is 'Our bodies, Our lives, Our rights.' Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Intersex (LGBTI) persons all over the world, including in Uganda face discrimination and violations of their rights to privacy and bodily integrity among other rights. In Uganda, LGBTI+ persons are frequently arrested and detained on the basis of their sexual orientation and/or gender identity. Invasive and non-consensual anal examinations and HIV tests are still performed on the bodies of LGBTI+ persons by the Police.

The absence of accessible, affordable, and quality services for hormone replacement therapy (HRT) in Uganda has forced many transgender persons to delay transition or opt for clandestine methods and black market HRT drugs to support their transition. Intersex children have also continuously been forced by their parents to undergo non-consensual sex-affirming corrective surgeries that have caused irreversible effects on some intersex children. The Government has not taken any initiatives in public hospitals to sensitise health workers and parents about the various intersex conditions that are regarded by some cultures as a curse.

On this International Day against Homophobia, Biphobia, Intersexphobia, and Transphobia, HRAPF urges the Government of Uganda to:

- Decriminalise and repeal all laws that criminalise consensual same sex conduct
- Stop forced and non-consensual anal and HIV examinations on LGBTI+ persons
- Include in health service provision services that address the Sexual Reproductive and Health needs of LGBTI+ persons in order to ensure their realisation of the right to health
- Ensure that non-life-saving surgeries are not performed on intersex children before puberty

